

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11595

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, UR

SUBJ: PRAVDA GIVES HIGH LEVEL BLESSING TO EMERGENCY MEASURES IN
INDIA

1. SUMMARY. A HIGH-RANKING CENTRAL COMMITTEE APPARATCHIK,
WRITING IN PRAVDA ON THE OCCASION OF INDIA'S 28TH ANNIVERSARY,
HAS GIVEN OFFICIAL SOVIET APPROVAL TO RECENT EVENTS IN
INDIA AND HAS SUGGESTED THAT THEY WILL LEAD TO EVEN CLOSER
SOVIET-INDIAN TIES. R. UL'YANOVSKIY, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE
CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DEPART-
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MENT RESPONSIBLE FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS, WRITING IN AN ARTICLE ON

AUGUST 15, RECONSTRUCTS RECENT INDIAN HISTORY TO SHOW THAT DECREE OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION WAS NECESSARY TO PREVENT RIGHTIST FORCES FROM "SEIZING POWER." ONCE IN POWER, UL'YANOVSKIY CONTENDS, THESE FORCES WOULD HAVE UNDONE ALL THE PROGRAMS WHICH INDIRA GANDHI HAS INSTITUTED TO BENEFIT INDIA'S UNDERPRIVILEGED. DESPITE WESTERN AND CHINESE CTITICISM, HE CONTINUES, THE EMERGENCY MEASURES ARE BROADLY SUPPORTED IN INDIA. UL'YANOVSKIY CONCLUDES THAT THE COMMON-ALITY OF INTERESTS EXISTING BETWEEN INDIA AND THE SOVIET UNION BOTH IN DOMESTIC GOALS AND IN FOREIGN POLICY HAS PAVED THE WAY FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS AND POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION. END SUMMARY.

2. CONCENTRATING ON THE PAST TWO OR THREE YEARS, UL'YANOVSKIY WRITES THAT THE INDIRA GANDHI GOVERNMENT EMBARKED DURING THIS PERIOD ON A PROGRAM OF NATIONALIZATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE GOVERNMENT SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY; DID AWAY WITH PENSIONS AND PRIVILEGES FOR "FEUDAL RULERS;" PASSED PROGRESSIVE LAND REFORM LAWS; STABILIZED FOOD PRICES BY "DOING AWAY WITH THE ARBITRARINESS OF PRIVATE TRADE" IN THAT SECTOR; AND PLACED CONTROLS ON WHOLESALE WHEAT PRICES.

3. THESE CHANGES, HE CONTINUES, EVOKED BITTER OPPOSITION AMONG MONOPOLISTS AND OTHER BOURGEOIS CLASS ENEMIES, WHO HAD LIVED WELL AT THE EXPENSE OF THE POOR. THIS OPPOSITION RESULTED IN A ANTI-GOVERNMENT CAMPAIGN BY LAND-OWNERS AND OTHER RIGHTIST FORCES WHICH SUCCEEDED IN FORCING THE GOVERNMENT TO BACK DOWN ON SOME ASPECTS OF ITS PROGRAM (REVOCATION OF WHOLESALE PRICE CONTROLS ON WHEAT) AND RESULTED IN VIOLENT ATTACKS ON THE GOVERNMENT IN SEVERAL AREAS OF THE COUNTRY. FORCES OF THE RIGHT, NO MATTER HOW DISPARATE, ALL JOINED TO COMBAT THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMS. "THIS MOVEMENT ALSO MAINTAINED CONTACT WITH CERTAIN FOREIGN SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATIONS" AND DEMANDED THAT INDIA CHANGE ITS POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

4. IN A THREATENING NEW STEP IN JUNE HTE MOVEMENT "MANAGED TO ACHIEVE" (DOBILIS') AN ADVERSE COURT FINDING WHICH WOULD HAVE "DIVESTED (HER) OF THE RIGHTS OF A DEPUTY OF PARILIA-MENT." THIS LAST SEPT WAS DIFFERENT FROM ALL THOSE THAT HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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PRECEDED IT, UL'YANOVSKIY CONTENDS, FOR IT HAD AS ITS AIM "THE SEIZURE OF POWER." AS PART OF THIS ATTEMPT THE MOVEMENT PLANNED A CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT IN DELHI BEGINNING JUNE 29. UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, UL'YANOVSKIY CONTENDS, THE GOVERNMENT WAS FORCED TO DECREE AN EMERGENCY SITUATION.

5. UL'YANOVSKIY SAYS THAT "OF COURSE" "CERTAIN PEOPLE" IN THE WEST AND IN PEKING HAVE CALLED THIS THE "END OF DEMOCRACY"

AND THE "PERSONAL DICTATORSHIP OF INDIRA GANDHI." THE FACT REMAINS, HOWEVER, THAT THE EMERGENCY MEASURES ARE BROADLY SUPPORTED BOTH BY THE GENERAL MASSES IN INDIA AND BY THE LEGISLATURE. THESE MEASURES, WHICH UL'YANOVSKIY DESCRIBES AT LENGTH, ARE "CREATING MORE FAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR THE REALIZATION OF THE PROGRAM OF SOCIAL-ECONOMIC CHANGES IN THE INTEREST OF THE LEAST PRIVILEGED CLASSES OF SOCIETY."

6. UL'YANOVSKIY CONCLUDES THAT "THE SOVIET PEOPLE, WHO HAVE ALWAYS REGARDED WITH GREAT SYMPATHY THE STRUGGLE OF INDIA FOR INDEPENDENCE AND SOCIAL PROGRESS, FULLY UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE AND THE INTENSITY OF THE CHANGES WHICH INDIA IS EXPERIENCING. THEY EXPRESS THE FIRM HOPE THAT UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DEMOCRATIC AND PROGRESSIVE FORCES, THE GREAT INDIAN PEOPLE WILL OVERCOME THE OBSTACLES WHICH HAVE ARISEN IN THEIR PATH...ON THE WAY TO A MORE JUST SOCIETY. THE COMMONALITY OF GOALS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND INDIA IN THE STRUGGLE FOR GENERAL PEACE AND THE SECURITY OF PEOPLES, AGAINST IMPERIALISM, COLONIALISM, REPRESSION AND EXPLOITATION HAS CREATED A FIRM BASIS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EXTENSIVE TIES WHICH HAVE COME INTO BEING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES OVER THE LAST DECADES AS WELL AS FOR ACTIVE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION."

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